

Ghraib and elsewhere at DoD-controlled prisons.

My bill has three main provisions.

First, it would require videotaping of interrogations and other pertinent interactions between U.S. personnel and/or contractors, and detainees arrested and held in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and elsewhere, pursuant to the war on terrorism, as recommended by the Army Inspector General. The tapes would be kept at the appropriate level of classification.

Second, it would ensure unfettered access to prisoners and detainees by representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for independent monitoring of detainee conditions and treatment.

Third, it would require the Judge Advocate General, pursuant to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to develop guidelines designed to ensure that the required videotaping is sufficiently expansive to prevent abuses of the fundamental human rights of detainees and prisoners and violations of the U.S. Constitution, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and other bedrock U.S. and international laws.

I am gratified that my bill has already been enthusiastically endorsed by Amnesty International Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Their self explanatory letters of support follow this statement. I am also encouraged that the U.S. Army Inspector General has expressed support for videotaping prisoner interrogations, in principle, in order to better protect the fundamental human rights of detainees and U.S. soldiers from false charges at the same time.

The abuses that occurred at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere never should have happened. They have indelibly stained the honor of our country and the overwhelming majority of U.S. troops who are defending our freedom with courage and personal responsibility. To whatever extent they continue, they aid and abet our enemies in the war on terrorism. I intend to press hard for enactment of this legislation during the 109th Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY ON ITS 5TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy on its 5th Anniversary and the completion of its first major acquisition along the San Gabriel River.

I have had the privilege of working with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy since I authored the legislation that created the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy during my tenure in the California State Senate. The Conservancy has brought opportunities for preservation of open space and habitat, low-impact recreation, education and watershed improvements to our very urban community. In the last five years diverse groups have come together

for a common goal—improving the urban environment and providing safe recreational places for our families and children.

I would also like to congratulate the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for completion of its first major acquisition along the San Gabriel River. This 57 acre property fronting two miles of the San Gabriel River was a duck farm for nearly 51 years. Now, the community will be able to enjoy conservation, water quality projects, and recreation—including a local trailhead connecting a bike and equestrian path from the Angeles National Forest to the Pacific Ocean.

I wish to offer the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy my sincerest congratulations on its five year anniversary and the dedication of the Duck Farm. I am looking forward to many more projects in the future so the children and families in the San Gabriel Valley can have safe places to play and enjoy the outdoors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO MS. SAMAKI VARIETY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroines, the late Ms. Samaki Variety, who we recently lost at the very young age of 47. Her passing on Sunday, December 19, 2004 leaves a deep void in our community.

Throughout her life, Samaki raised a brave voice to the struggles of the poor and the homeless, especially those afflicted with the deadly virus of HIV-AIDS across our community and beyond. She also portrayed the unjust and inhumane treatment of newly arrived immigrants, particularly the Haitians, against the backdrop of policies and regulations that continue to negatively impact their lives to this very day. Samaki worked as a Community Outreach Coordinator to my mother, former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, where she was noted and loved for her dedication, effectiveness, positive attitude and happy spirit. I reserve to her the highest respect and admiration for her insatiable quest for simple justice and fairness for the less fortunate among us, particularly the children and the youth.

Ms. Samaki Variety symbolized the resilient and unyielding voice for those who were disenfranchised and who bore the brunt of inequality of opportunity. She was a loving mother, an indefatigable community-builder and a catalyst par excellence who was completely unselfish in her endeavors. The authenticity of her stewardship on our behalf was defined by her utmost consecration to her calling as God's faithful servant, bringing laughter, hope and optimism to hundreds of ordinary folks and countless teenagers whose lives she deeply touched, never holding anyone at arm's length.

This remarkable lady was our community's friend and confidante. She will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of community service on behalf of the less fortunate. Her faith was deep and genuine, and her love for us was real and unforgettable. No one who knew Samaki—and having been struck by her sunny disposition and unflinching optimism—went away un-

changed. She was truly a caring and passionate person who brightened the lives of all who knew her.

We will truly miss her, and we will never forget her.

I ask that the following article from the Miami Herald be included in the RECORD:

[From the Miami Herald, Dec. 23, 2004]

FORMER OUTREACH CHIEF RAISED AIDS AWARENESS; SAMAKI VARIETY

(By Monica Hatcher)

Samaki Variety, admired for her work within South Florida's HIV/AIDS community, died Sunday in Atlanta of pneumonia. She was 47.

Variety, the former community outreach director for Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, spearheaded several city-sponsored AIDS events, including the Tree Lighting Ceremony commemorating World AIDS Day and the Youth March for Life, which brought thousands of school-age children marching through downtown last year to raise AIDS awareness.

"Her passion for HIV education may have had a great deal to do with the amount of HIV we see in the black community here," said Alex Paulmer, who worked with Variety on AIDS-related projects. Variety was born in San Francisco and studied psychology and social science at Fort Valley State University. After college, she met Lee Variety. The couple married and moved to Miami in the mid-1970s. The couple worked as entertainers and owned Boo-key Productions, which booked and promoted acts.

"She had a gift for singing, dancing and acting, but God also gave her a gift for helping people," recalled her mother, Annie Lacy. In the late 1980s, Variety used her talents and her own money to host a Saturday radio youth talk show on 1490 WMBM called "What's on Your Mind." The call-in program, aimed at teenagers, tackled such issues as pregnancy and child abuse. Samaki and Lee Variety had two children together, Leronce and Dom'Unique. The couple later divorced.

"She had a high spirit and was a positive thinker," said Dom'Unique, 14. "She was dedicated to her job and loved to help people and she pushed people to be the best they can be."

Variety worked in the public sector as an aide to Congresswoman Carrie Meek for five years. "She was a rare combination of talent, intelligence and ability," said U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, who knew Samaki when she worked with his mother. Variety worked for a time in the Miami-Dade County School System and with former County Commissioner Charles Dusseau.

In 2002, she joined Diaz's office of Faith-Based Initiatives and Community Outreach. "Samaki will be deeply missed by all of the people she encountered and the many, many lives she touched," Diaz said in a statement. Variety left the mayor's office in October to care for her mother in Georgia.

In addition to her mother and children, Variety is survived by a grandmother, Nazaree Foster; brothers, Roland and Wayman Hindsman; and sisters Jaqueline Shire, Jakki Kidd and Betty Wallace, as well as three grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF REGGIE WHITE

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Americans are mourning the loss of Reggie